General Epistle,

AND

Greeting of the Fathers Love,

TO ALL

THE SAINTS.

Called and chosen to faithfulness in Christ sent the light of the World, in which they believing, and their faith standing in his power, many suffers for his names sake.

And this is to all such as are found [illegible] and is an Exhortation to the strengthening of their faith, whereby they may continue boldly witnessing to the end.

And this is a true testimony of the Father and of the Son; Witnessed by us who are called of God, in whom his power is made manifest.

London; Printed for *Thomas Simmons* at the Bull and Mouth neer *Aldersgate*, 1657.

A

To the Reader.

FOr asmuch as many who are partakers of the Fathers Love, manifested in his Son in measure, in whom these Epistles hath found greeting, With the same Love in the upright hearted, to which it is a sure Testimony of love from Life it self, to the quickning, strengthning, confirming, and arming of all such as have in the Love, Life and Power heard, and received, and believed the Truth as it hath been declared, and is in Jesus, in whom our Faith is standing, which Faith worketh by the Love shed abroad in our hearts, wherein we are reaching after each other in the sameness of Love, which is the bond of our unity, wherein we are called together to be joyned in the purity, power and life of one Faith and Love, therein to bear Testimony (as we have in our measures recieved) to, and of the everlasting Truth, wherein finding these Epistles of such manifold service to the whole Body, both for instruction, exhortation, strengthening, and forewarning, whereby there is or may be a safe arming against all decete t and deceivable spirits, hereof is from the earnest love and desire stirred up in many here among us that are faithful, whereby this they put in print, that thereby the service may reach unto all who are worthy thereof in these Nations, for to them it is sent, who are called of God, therefore in the fear of the Lord let every one of us to whom this comes walk worthy of the Fathers love, grace mercy and peace, wherein to we are called in one body, of which Christ is Head.

Sent from London the 2.
of the 3. month, 1657.

W. D.

AN

EPISTLE

To all the

SAINTS whom God hath called.

O all the Children of Light every where, who feareth and loveth the Lord, who are begotten of God, and unto whom he is known in the spirit and in the truth; this is a testimony of the Fathers love unto you, Grace, Mercy, and Peace from him that lives for ever, the God of Light and Life be multiplyed in you all, that you may daylie be renewed in strength, and girded with truth, and armed with the whole Armour of God, and may be kept by his Power until the day of Salvation, to walk in the Government and subjection to Jesus Christ, witnessing the power and presence of God in you, and amongst you, giving you power to fulfil his will in all things, and that in all righteousness, and out of all evil you may be led, and preserved unto the end, and in the end, to shew forth the praises

of God in this generation, as a people called of him, and redeemed by him for his glories sake, even so Amen, and Amen. Dearly beloved, be not ignorant, but this know, This is the Message which came unto you, which is true and faithful, and everlasting, That the true God is light, and in him is no darkness at all; and this is the Message of Peace and Reconciliation, and of glad tydings unto all that have sought the Lord, which we receive of him, and you have heard, and there is not another to be declared, and all that have received it, are gathered up to God, and are in Covenant with him, and one with another, and are in that which reconcileth and joyneth unto Christ Jesus (the Husband) and second *Adam*, who is the Lord from Heaven, the Prince of Peace, the Saviour and the deliverer, who is made manifest in Power, and condemneth the Transgressor, and slayeth the Enmity, and raiseth the life out of death; and this is he who kills and makes alive, even the God who is light, who brings down one, and sets up another; who makes war against the mighty, and gives Peace to the poor, and besides him there is none; he searcheth mans heart, and tryeth the reins, and knows the thoughts, and every creature is manifest in his sight, who gives to every one according to his doings; and this is he who standeth in the Congregation of the righteous, even in the midst of us, & sitteth Judge among the gods, unto him must all the gods of the earth bow, and the Inhabitants of the earth must tremble before him, and unto him every Tongue shall confess, and the light in every man shall answer when he ariseth to judgement, who is a swift witness to condemn or justifie all the children of men upon the face of the earth.

This is the God of truth whom we worship, and who will be worshipped in spirit and in truth, who is the God of *Abraham* and his seed for ever, and with him there is no change, nor shadow of turning; and he hath made known his Name, and his Power, and his wonderful works in this his day, and hath caused his voice to be heard in the earth, and the dead hath heard and now liveth.

And his Name is exalted on high amongst all that fear him and obey his voice; and he hath given his Son a Covenant of Light, who lighteth every man that cometh into the world with the true Light of Life, or Condemnation, that all who receive him may come to the knowledge of the Father, whom to know is life eternal.

And this is the Christ, the Saviour, in which we have believed, and which we preach, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, the Foundation of God which cannot be moved, the Word of God is his Name, and there is no other Name given for salvation. This is he that was dead, and is alive, and lives for evermore; and there is no other to be looked for; if any preach any other, let him be accursed; and if any bring any other Message, let them not be received.

And all you who have believed in this Christ Jesus, who is the Light of the world, and who have received the knowledge of this God, who hath lit himself, and that searcheth your hearts, I exhort you, and warn you all in his presence that lives for ever, to wait upon him, and so fear before him, and to walk with him for ever in uprightness of heart, which is of great price in his sight, and forget not his righteous Judgements which he hath made known, least you wax fat through mercies, and rebelling against him, and become disobedient and gainsaying, and so be destroyed from being a people; but be stayed upon the Lord, and let your hearts be established with grace, and be not tossed nor shaken with any wind of Doctrines of men, which is not from the life of God, nor reaches to the life in you, but begets into Idolatry, to worship other Gods then he who is light; and be not troubled at temptations, nor at sufferings, nor at reproaches, nor any other thing, but stand in the Counsel of God, and in his long-suffering and wait patiently upon him in your own measure of the grace of God received, which is sufficient for you to preserve you, that victory over death and over him that hath the power over it, you may receive, to trample upon all that which is contrary to the life of God within you, and without you; neither be you troubled nor offended in Christ if any among you deny the Lord, and backslide from his pure way through an evil heart of unbelief, and so become disobedient children, and vex the righteous soul; such shall bear their own burthen and condemnation in the day of the Lord; and know, that truth changes not, but is the same for ever, though the deceitful hearted, through unbelief, depart from it, and choose their own wayes, and despise the Counsel of the Lord to their own destruction; but be ye more watchful, and faithful, and valiant for the truth upon earth unto the end, that you may be found faithful witnesses unto the Name of the Lord in this crooked Generation, and may receive the fulfilling of the Promise of God, and may witness God with you, the Emanuel, the Saviour, God with us; and this is the whole salvation, and there is no other to be expected or witnessed then this, That God dwells in us, and walks in us, according to his Promise; and all that know this, needs not go forth to the right hand or to the left; but salvation is come unto us, he that takes away sin, and saves from it, and from condemnation; and who witnesseth this, are begotten by the Word of God, and born of the immortal Seed, and are new creatures; and there is now no condemnation, but the reward of righteousness and peace to us, who are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit; and here we witness the Lord is our God, and we are his people, and he sees no sin in us who are born of him, nor remembers iniquity; but his Covenant is with us; and the Kingdome is become the Lords, and his Dominion is set up, where God is all in all, where the Prince of Darkness is cast out; and this is the end and substance of all Ministrations, which we bare witness of; and I do exhort all you that are called of God every where, patiently to walk in the way of the Lord, and in his Judgements to receive this, and to possess it within,

within you, that you may be worshippers of God, and doers of his will, and may have the witness that you are accepted of him, and may know your calling and election sure, where nothing that defileth can enter, but that may be taken away and removed, and him you may feel and witness, which Satan hath nothing in, who is the second *Adam*, and cannot be overcome, but is greater then the first *Adam* who was overcome (though innocent) and is lost from the presence of God; but he in whom there is no sin, who cannot transgresse, comes to seek & to save that which was lost in sin, and to bring back that which was driven away by sin; and he is greater then innocency, and overcometh the Devil, and is called the Son of God; and so him that overcometh, who is the Light of the world, is all Power given of the Father: And know him in you all to be the greatest, who is not of the world, nor cannot bow to the Devil, to give you dominion and authority over all the world, and the powers of Hell and Death, even he who sealeth up the old Dragon in Perdition never more to deceive: And who witnesseth this, knoweth the Election which it is not possible to deceive, or be deceived; and as every one of you hath received him who is the Lord from Heaven, so let your faith stand in him, and walk in him; and let all your conversations be ordered by him, in all pure and blameless walking in the sight of your Enemies, that it may be manifest that you are branches in him, and that you have received power to become the sons of God, and that you are heirs of the Inheritance which shall not fade away. And all you that witness this, your eye is opened to see God, and you are cleansed from sin by the Word of God, and you have received the peace with God, and glad tydings from him in your own souls; and this is salvation by the second *Adam*, herein be established and settled, and look not for another; for there is not any besides this Saviour and this salvation, but if any preach another, believe them not; and if any cry, Lo here, and lo there is Christ without you, go not after them, nor follow them; but know him within you, which is greater then all; yea, If we our selves, or an Angel from heaven, preach any other Jesus then he which lighteth every man that cometh into the world, or any other salvation then God hath us, let us be accursed; for this is the Gospel of our salvation, Christ Jesus within us the hope of glory, the Power and Wisdom of God to rule and reign in us, by which we are changed from death to life, and translated from the power of darkness into the kingdom of his dear Son.

And now all Friends and Elect of God, who are called and faithful, you that have received this Testimony which God hath given of the Son; and which the Son hath given of the Father, which in faithfulness hath been testified in this generation, I exhort you all in the fear and counsel of the Lord, take heed to that which you have believed, and heard, and learned of the Father, which is the truth as it is in Jesus, and shall abide for ever and be not removed from your hope, nor given to change, but minde the

life

life of God in you all, which is immortal, and is but one; and it answereth to the Lord in Judgements, and in mercies one to another in that which is righteous and just, and witnesseth against all the works of the world, which are evil, and not wrought in God.

Ye that know this which is of the Father in you, dwell in it, and walk in it, and be not shaken out of it, nor removed from it, for it is the way of peace unto everlasting rest, where there is no sorrow but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, and every one in particular have salt in your selves to savour withal, that you may resist the wicked one in all his temptations, and may not joyne to any thing which is out of union, and contrary to the life of God, & to the truth whith you have received, that you may never be betrayed of your hope, nor of the simplicity which is in Christ Jesus, in which the Father is well pleased; and let the Light of the world guide you in all things, that your works may be wrought in God, never to be condemned, nor you to suffer loss, knowing this first, That none are justified by him but them that are led and guided by him; and to whom he is a Saviour, he is also a Teacher, and he is given to teach in all the wayes of Truth.

And now let your fellowship be in the power and life of God, and know not one another in words onely, and in shews, and in outward appearance, but witness one another in the spirit and in the truth, and have communion there in breaking the bread of life, that Christ Jesus may be seen to be the head in you, and you Members to serve him and one another, all receiving wisdom from the head and vertue, and vertue from the Vine (Christ Jesus) that you may abound in love, mercy, and peace, and all the fruits of righteousness unto the Father, and dwell in the fear and counsel of God, and be subject to his will, not despising the cross which is the power of God, which slayes the birth that is born of the flesh, which is not heir of the Promise; but walk in the Cross dayly, that your understanding may be kept open to try and discern all spirits, whether they be of God, and believe not every spirit, for lying spirits may arise among your selves, and go forth from the light, who is not in the truth, but in the feignedness and hypocrisie, with false visions, and lying imaginations, handling the word of God deceitfully, and corrupting and perverting the pure way of God, having the form, but not the power, having left the power, and gone from the light, and such utter the words of truth without the life, and is but as the chaff to the wheat, and they are to be denyed and resisted, and not joyned to, least innocency and simplicity be betrayed, and your faith made void, and so you be destroyed from the life of God, and death surprize you, and darkness enter into your dwellings, and so unbelief, and doubtings, and murmurings, and lustings after evil arise in you, and you be perverted from the Worship of the true God, and grieve his righteous spirit by bowing to Idols, and following of other Lovers, and so the true God, which hath brought you out of Egypt, and made manifest his power in you, be forgotten, and the faith of his Son made shipwreck of,

and

and your latter end be worse than the beginning, and the Name of the Lord be dishonoured by you; and then we unto you, his wrath shall suddenly break out against you; wherefore hear, and fear, and hearken unto the Word of the Lord, he hath caused his Light to shine forth, and his voice to be heard; he hath proclaimed his Name amongst you, and hath caused his marvelous light to approach when you set in darness in the Land of the shadow of death, when you were lost he sought you, and when you were driven away and scattered, he found you; and brought you home; when you were in your blood, and no eye pittyed you, he had mercy upon you, and bound you up, and healed you; when you were dead, he said unto you, Live, and it was so; when you were led captive by the devil, under the power of death, he break the chains, and set you free; and when there was none to help & to save, his own arm brought deliverance and salvation, and the way of life and peace he set before you.

And now all this hath his own Arm accomplished, that you should be a praise unto him for evermore; now if you walk in the way which he hath set before you, and keep his Covenant which he hath made with you, and fulfil his will, and walk in righteousness, in love and unity, in meekness, lowliness, humbleness, and in soberness, and watchfulness, and in fear of his Name; then shall his presence never forsake you, nor his outstretched arm cease to defend and preserve you, but he shall go before you, and be your reward; and he shall be your God, and you shall be his people; and you shall dwell in him, and he shall be your hiding-place; and he will be to you a Father, and you shall be his children, and his blessing and peace shall remain in your habitations for ever and ever; but if any of you turn aside for a thing of naught after vanity, and deny the way of righteousness, and forget the Lord, and kick against him, and follow the way and counsels of your own hearts, and worship other Gods, and joyne your selves to strangers, and commit adultery with other Lovers, and make the cross of Christ of non-effect, and turn from the Light of Christ within you, and fulfil your own wills, and the desire of your own minds, and go out of the fear of the Lord into the liberty of the flesh (which is not the liberty in Christ Jesus) and so seek your selves, and strive for mastery to be one above another, and so furnize evil one against another, and the bond of Peace be broken, and vain contention and strife appear; then shall the Rod of God smite you, and his wrath be suddenly kindled against you, and you shall not prosper, but his countenance shall be hid; and the terrors of the Lord, and lamentations shall possess you, and peace shall flee far from you, and such shall be cast out of the Camp of the Lord, and shall have no part in the Inheritance, but the blessing shall depart, and the curse shall enter till utter destruction; yea, and if any of you deny the Lord unto whom his way is made manifest, he will deny you, and you shall have no part in him, but vengeance in flames of fire will he render upon the disobedient, manifold more then if his love and way of peace had not

been

[illegible] made manifest to you, and the Light of the world is your condemnation for evermore if you turn from it.

And in the presence of the living God I warn you all, Believe not that Spirit, neither follow it which brings any other Message then what hath been declared from the beginning; believe not him which cryes, Lo here, or lo there is Christ without you, or that draweth from the measure of Christ within you, to hearken to, or to be taught by any other thing, for that Spirit is not of the Father which preacheth any other Christ then he that is the Light of the world, and lighteth every man that cometh into the world, and which bringeth any other Message then that God is light in himself, and hath given his Son a light into the world; and this is the true Testimony of the Father and of the Son, and he that testifieth any other Message, is to be judged and denyed; he is not a worshipper of the true God, but out of the truth, and in the error, and a deceiver, and being deceived.

Again, Believe not that spirit, neither follow it, which Ministers to others that which it hath not learned of the Father, but hath the words without the Power, and lives not in the Power of what it Ministers forth in words, nor is not what it declares, but is in the outward shews, in the hypocrisie and feignedness, and teacheth not the life of God, but vails and covers it, and that spirit is not of the Father, but is to be denyed and judged, and not received nor believed.

Again, believe not that spirit, neither follow it, which is at liberty in the flesh, and makes the offence of the cross to cease, which is exalted out of the fear of the Lord in the liberty of the earthly, which crucifies the life, and darkens the eye; and that spirit will boast of joy, and peace, and experience, and knowledge, and speak high words in the airy mind, and that would lead you out of your conditions to glory above the cross, till you be past feeling of the life; and that spirit begets into feignedness and hypocrisie, and into the love of the world which passes away; and beware of that spirit, for it is not of the Father, but to be condemned.

Again, Believe not that spirit, neither follow it, which is hasty, and forward, and rash, for that goeth out of Gods counsel, and betrayes the Just, and strives to be greatest, and to be above the weak, and despises him, and would be Master, and not a servant, and would rule, and not be ruled in the meek & lowly government of Christ, and that spirit will judge out of thoughts rashly and unsavourily, and condemn another in secret in what it self is guilty of; beware of that spirit, for it is not of God, but to be judged with the life of God.

Again, Believe not that spirit, neither follow it, which seeks it self to have praise of men, and to be accounted, and would beget into divisions, and would have parties to it self, and respects persons, and glories in gifts, and knowledge, and parts, more then in the Giver, and admires men more then he that gives the encrease, and feeds of the knowledge in that

nature which is to be famished, and glories in what hath been done by it as though it had not received power from the Lord, and is exalted as though it bare the root, not knowing that it is born of the root, and that spirit spends its Treasure which it received in the Fathers house, amongst Harlots, and despises the poor, and seeks occasion to glory over the weak, that it may be renowned; beware of that spirit I charge you all, for it is not of the Father, nor to be followed, but to be condemned, and resisted unto death.

Again, Believe not that spirit, neither follow it, which preaches not from the measure of God received, and to be manifest to it in you, and approved by it only, but speaks above the measure, and reaches not to the measure of the grace of God; that spirit leads after words and outward shews, and cryes peace to the rich, and judgement to the poor; & the word of God is not divided aright, but heals up falsly, and daubs with untempered morter, and cryes peace where Gods speaks war; and cryes war where God speaks peace; and that spirit is a deceiver and a betrayer, and feeds but the ear, and not the life, and darkens the counsel of God by words without knowledge, and is not of the Father, but of the world, & to be denyed and condemned.

Again, Believe not that spirit, neither follow it, which is not subject to rule and order, and is not meek, and diligent, and long suffering, but heady, and high, and untoward, seeking occasions against the Just, and watches for evil; that spirit will not bear reproof, but is idle, sloathful, and careless, and surmising evil, and backbiting, and conforms in appearance, making a fair shew, but is not unto God, as appearing unto man; and that would go, and is not called; and will not go when it is called; and seeks for the praise of men more then God, and that is fruitless ground, and brings forth bryars and thorns in secret, which choaks the seed of God; beware of that spirit, it is a lover of this world; have no fellowship with it, for it is not of the Father, but a deceiver, and is to be denyed.

Again, Believe not that spirit, neither follow it, which is tosled and unsetled, and is given to change, and is not established with grace, that is an Adulterer, and hunts for the precious life, and seeks by flattery to beguile the innocent; that spirit is zealous for a moment, but is soon overcome, and is stony ground, and brings not forth fruit to perfection, but withers, and its later end is worse then the beginning. That spirit is exalted into presumption, and in peace, and cast into desparation and trouble, and the double mind lodgeth in it, and it is unstable in all its wayes, & is a ground for the seed of Satan, and to it there is no peace from God; and beware of that spirit, for it is not of the Father, but to be condemned.

Again, Believe not that spirit, neither follow it, which is more zealous then knowing, whose zeal is without true knowledge, and stands in that which is corrupted, that flourisheth for a moment; but cannot endure for ever; it hath no root in it self, but is furious and passionate, and not long-

suffering;

ſuffering, that ſpirit knows not it ſelf, but would devour its adverſary with bitterneſs, and not gain'd by long ſuffering; that is not the Spirit of the Father, but muſt be denyed in all.

Again, Believe not that ſpirit which draws back into the world, into its luſts, and liberty, and faſhions which paſſeth away; that ſpirit forgets God, and draws back, for his ſoul hath no pleaſure in it, but is vexed with it, where the croſs is made of non-effect, and the falſe Liberty is walked in, which murders the life; that ſpirit is of the Devil, and is to be condemned.

And now all friends of God every where, who knows him, and are known of him whom he hath gathered out of this untoward generation; be diligent in your Callings, and keep your meetings in faithfulneſs, waiting upon the Lord, that you all may receive of his fulneſs to be filled with it, and may be nouriſhed up unto himſelf, as Trees of righteouſneſs, the planting of his own right hand, to ſpread forth his name and glory, as a people ſaved by him, and to whom there is none like beſides. And this know and underſtand, that ſpirit is not of the Father which confeſſeth not the Son to be come in the fleſh, who deſtroys the works of the Devil, and takes away ſin; and that ſpirit believe and follow which condemns ſin, and deſtroys it, and takes it away, and ſo gives peace with God in your own conſciences, and leads you into all truth, and keeps you from all evil; & you that witneſs this, the Son you know, and the Father you know to dwell with you, and in you; and this is the firſt and the laſt; believe in him, and follow him, and look not for any other; and in this the Father of Life and Glory, whoſe Dominion is without beginning and end, eſtabliſh you, and preſerve you, *Amen*, and *Amen*.

I a beloved Brother, and a Companion unto all the Saints in ſuffering, and in rejoycing, who have received this Teſtimony from the Father, doth with it in this Epiſtle ſalute the whole Church in the love of the Father, as moved of him by his Eternal Spirit, who beareth witneſs to me that we are of God, and the whole world lies in wickedneſs, and that all that are of God heareth us. And this Teſtimony I give of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Truth, and of the Salvation of which I am made a witneſs, and againſt all that ever ſhall deny it, or turn from it: And this is thus far the words of my Teſtimony by the Spirit of the Father, not knowing when the time comes it may be finiſhed, and the night may come when no man can work.

EDWARD BURROUGH.

To all that suffer for the Testimony of JESUS, and for his Names sake.

THE glorious God of truth hath appeared and made known his way and truth perfectly in this our day, and hath chosen unto himself faithful Witnesses, to testifie of his Name, and of his Truth before Rulers and people, and hath brought forth a seed which is not of this world, which cannot bow to the Devil, but is heir of Gods Inheritance, though a sufferer in this world under the powers thereof, and many in this generation, who are called, and faithful, and chosen, bears witness unto the Name of the Lord in sufferings and tribulations, whom he will honor because they honor him, who is exalting his Truth and his people through sufferings.

And now all Friends who are called to suffer for the Testimony of Jesus, and for the exercise of a pure conscience which you hold, be valiant for the truth upon earth and faint not, but finish your Testimony with joy for the Lord, and against all your enemies, and look not forth at afflictions and sufferings, but look beyond them to the recompence of reward; neither be offended in Christ, though ye are called to suffer for him, and for his Names sake; but dwell in the peace with God, which is a sufficient reward; and take heed to your life which is immortal, that it you may feel and enjoy, and account that the present sufferings is not worthy to be reckoned with the glory that is to be revealed, and of which you have the earnest, even present peace with God; and look beyond your sufferings, and before the rage of man was, and feel the life of God in you fresh and lively, which is more then all things, to carry you above all the world, and all its envy, which is against the seed of God.

And take heed of temptations, for the power of Satan will work, and is near to tempt you in sufferings, to gain dominion over you, and to touch your life, and to cast you down: Therefore mind the life of God in you to have dominion, which *Satan* hath nothing in, which is not given him to touch; and that is more then all, yea all that a man hath will he give for his life to enjoy it when he is tryed; (this I witness) & you are tryed by sufferings and tribulations, and your faith and patience is proved; therefore approve your selves faithful unto the Lord by long-sufferings and patience, that Satan overcome you not, though he may touch you, and have power to cast some of you into prison, and otherways to winnow you, and to try you for your life; but be faithful unto death, and you shall receive the Crown

of

of life eternal; and keep the Word of his patience, that you may be delivered, and Satan may be under your feet.

And all you that suffer for well doing, who holds fast the Testimony which you have received of God; now when your hearts are searched, blessed from the Lord you are, your reward you shall possess, which no man can take away, even the life, and liberty, and treasure which Satan cannot touch nor spoyle you of.

Ye that suffer because you cannot fulfil wickedness, nor the will of man, but are of the seed which cannot please man, nor bow to the Devil; ye suffer for Christ, and for righteousness sake; who cannot walk contrary to the light of Christ within you, but rather chooses to suffer under corrupt men and laws, then to transgress Gods righteous Law written in your hearts; you are chosen to fulfil the will of God by sufferings, and are not of the world, and therefore the world hates you.

And all you that suffer imprisonment of body, or spoyling of Goods, or travels, or any other thing, because you cannot pay tythes, this is the word of the Lord God unto you, You suffer for righteousnesse sake, and for the Name of Christ, and unjustly, by the oppression of men for well-doing, & not for evil; & the Lord will be your exceeding great reward; look beyond your outward Liberty, and know the liberty in spirit, in the Father, and in the Son, where is everlasting peace and freedom, which none can bring into bondage; and look beyond all outward Treasure and Riches, and see Gods Treasure, and possess it, which never waxes old, which none can spoyle you of, as Witnesses for the Lord, and for his truth and Covenant; you suffer, and it is for a Testimony against all your Enemies, and against oppression, and oppressors; for the cry of that oppression the Land groans under, and for ages hath done; but the Lord is now risen against it, for its cry reacheth to Heaven against the unrighteous Exactors, whose cruel hands hath heavily oppressed the just and the poor in this particular; and herein your suffering is for a testimony against your cruel Adversaries, (whether Priests or others) and against the unjust Judges and Lawyers, and their whole train of Oppressors; for this end are you called to suffer, and to you it shall be made easie if you abide in the counsel of God, till vengeance overcome your adversaries; therefore lift up your heads, and fulfil the will of your Father in patience and in faithfulness, till the Lord appear for you, who heareth to the cry of the poor, and regardeth the unjust sufferer, and will recompence the oppressors into their bosoms, and will break every yoke, and be a terror to all the cruel hearted.

And all you that suffer, who are moved by the power of the Lord to bear witness against the false Worships, and against the false Teachers and Idol-Temples, of which the Land is full, and who are moved to testifie against sin in Rulers, Priests, or People: Whether your suffering be imprisonment, or beating, and stoning, or other abuses or cruelties whatsoever, which the Devil hath power to lay upon you; you suffer for righteousnes sake,

sake, and for the Name of Christ, and for well doing, all in the wisdome of God you be guided, and the Lord will be your reward and peace for ever; lift up your head, and rejoice in him, and abide in his counsel, ye that suffer herein for him, and for his Names sake; for your suffering is for a Testimony against all this Generation, against the Idol Worships and ways, which Gods soul loaths, and which he will confound; and against the Idol Teachers, and false Prophets and Priests, who preach for hire, and make merchandise of souls, against whom Gods wrath is kindled, and upon whom his indignation will be poured, and it is a testimony against the sins of Rulers and people, which abounds in this generation, till the measure of it be fulfilled through persecuting of you, who warn them of the evil, and bears witness against their evil deeds, that God may be justified when he condemns them; and he is risen against the Worships, and Wayes, and Teachers, and people, whose abominable iniquities hath overgrown the world, and prophaneness hath gone forth from them, through Nations, Rulers, and Teachers and people are all out of the way, and given to vanity, to covetousnes, and Idolatry, and the breath of the Lord shall consume you together (all who doth oppress the Just.)

Therefore Friends, be patient and content under all tribulations and sufferings, and feel Gods living presence neat you, to overshadow you, and to be your hiding place; and know the life which the wickedness and cruelty of man cannot touch nor reach unto, and dwell in the Power of the Lord, which moveth to bear witness for him, and against all those abominations; and that will keep you above all the afflictions which can be cast upon you, and you will be on the top of your enemies, and the Seed of the Serpent shall hardly bruise your heel.

Wo unto the Idol Worships, and Temples, and Teachers, to all the Hirelings and Deceivers, who feeds themselves and not the Flock, which abounds in the world, and in this Nation, they must down into Perdition; the Lord is risen against them all, to pluck up the root, that the branches may wither; and his arm shall watch over them to overthrow them all, and to make them desolate, that the just may be delivered.

And all you that suffer any where imprisonment, or finings, or reproaches, or any other thing, because you cannot swear for conscience sake, nor respect persons, according to the vain customs of the Heathen, but are redeemed out of the customs and superstitions of men, which are of the world, and are evil, and not of God, nor justified by him; you suffer for righteousnes sake, and for Christs sake, and are witnesses for God herein against the superstitions, and wickedness, and pride, and high-mindedness of men; and the Lord is with you if you be ruled in his wisdom, and are faithful to him; and he will lift up your head till his and your adversaries be confounded. And I charge you all in the presence of the Lord, who suffers for righteousnes sake in these things, or in any other, who are moved of the Lord to bear witness of the truth, and against the deceits of the world, be

not

[illegible] in the [illegible] in your sufferings least you forget God. Nor be not cast down into sorrow, least ye be overcome of the Devil; but dwell in the measure of the power and life of God, which is above all, and more then all, and feel Gods [illegible] to stay your hearts to watch to his own in you, to refresh you continually. And resist the Devil on every hand with the Armour of Light and Truth, that your life may be preserved in Dominion over all things; even the life which is not of this world in you, may not be vailed nor overcome, for to enjoy the life of God with you is enough, if you pass through the fire and through the water, it keeps you, and carries you above all, [this I witness] and it is more then all outward freedom, or liberty, or riches and treasure of this world; and walk herein in boldness, and faithfulness, and patience, as you have us for an example in Christ Jesus, who are in Jeopardy every hour, often in trials, and sufferings, and dangers, and loves not our lives unto death for the Testimony of Jesus which we hold, and that his Name and Truth may be exalted in the earth; but as the Lord moves are carryed through Nations, among Lyons and devourers, such as seeks our life for their prey, and yet the Lord is with us, our Defence, and Arm, and Preserves above all. Therefore look you at the Lord in all afflictions and distress, and know his reward with you, that your burden and yoke may be easie, and not hard; for his presence makes all things joyful; and know, that it is for the Name of the Lord, and for his honor, and for his Kingdom which God will set up through suffering; for this cause are ye called to suffer, and your life, nor liberty, nor any other thing is not to be measured nor compared herewith.

So unto every one of you I am moved to write, and to warn you all in the fear of God, be content, and long-suffering, and patient, and finish your Testimony with rejoycing, if ye seal it with your blood, and dwell with the Lord in his holy habitation of Peace, out of respect to time or places, or things, and give up your selves, that his will in you may be fulfilled. And think it not strange though you have fiery tryals; neither be moved at any suffering without you, or troubled in spirit; neither let it break your peace nor fellowship with God by any impatiency or murmurings, or temptations, for then will your sufferings be grievous to you, and the Enemy within and without will have ground against you to overthrow you, and know, it is that which ever was in all ages, and no new thing the Seed of God suffered by the seed of evil doers; and the wicked alwayes strengthned their hands in cruelty against the righteous, and laid heavy burdens upon the just, and caused the innocent to groan under them for a time, till iniquity was fulfilled, that they might be broken, and the oppressed delivered, and alwayes the Lord exalted his Name by the suffering of his people, as we have a cloud of Witnesses of our Forefathers that went before, who did bear witnesse to the Name of the Lord through faithful suffering; so it is no strange thing hath happened unto you, but that which is common to all the Saints, who enters the Kingdom

through

Edward Burroughs

The End.